

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ORIGIN PM-03

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TO DOD

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LIMDIS DOD/ISA FOR CDR GOODMAN OPNAV FOR CAPT RAWLINS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 5140 ACTION SECSTATE 18 APRIL.

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: SSN'S AND PROBLEM OF RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, STA DIRGEN KINJI MORIYAMA, REFERRING TO MEMCON FROM MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR U. ALEXIS JOHNSON ON OCT 21, 1968, SAID THAT AMBASSADOR JOHNSON HAD TOLD JAPANESE THAT US NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS DID NOT DISCHARGE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WHILE IN PORT. MORIYAMA STATED HE HAD BEEN ASKED IN DIET IF THIS MEANT "NOT EVEN ONE DROP" OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WOULD BE RELEASED.

2. ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNABLE TO LOCATE COPY OF MEMCON FROM ABOVE MEETING HERE, WE DO NOTE FROM RECORD OF CONVERSATION OF JUNE 3, 1968 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON AND THEN FORMIN TAKEO MIKI THAT AMBASSADOR TOOK PAINS TO AVOID GIVING ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE THAT US WOULD NEVER DISCHARGE EVEN ONE DROP. WE ASSUME THAT FORMULATION GIVEN AT LATER CONVERSATION CITED BY MORIYAMA WAS THAT "UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES"

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NO COOLANT IS DISCHARGED DURING PERIOD NUCLEAR-POWERED

VESSEL REMAINS IN PORT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT (E.G. DEVELOPMENT OF EXPANSION TANKS TO CONTAIN COOLANT OVERFLOW ON REACTOR STARTUP AND POSSIBILITY OF KEEPING REACTOR "HOT" DURING PERIOD OF PORTCALL) IN NUCLEAR PROPULSION MAY HAVE MADE ANY SUCH COOLANT DISCHARGE UNNECESSARY UNDER ALMOST ALL CIRCUMSTANCES DURING TEMPORARY PERIOD OF PORTCALL. IF THIS TRUE AND USN HAS KEPT RECORDS. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO INFORM GOJ THAT IN FACT, WE HAVE NOT DISCHARGED ANY COOLANT WHATSOEVER INTO JAPANESE HARBORS FOR THE LAST (BLANK) YEARS. IF SO, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SO INFORM MORIYAMA AND PERHAPS EVEN AUTHORIZE HIM TO SAY SO IN DIET.

4. COMMENT: STA DIRGEN MORIYAMA HAS TAKEN UNUSUALLY TOUGH POSITION AGAINST LEFTIST BARRAGE OF INTERPELLATIONS ON SSN MONITORING ISSUE IN DIET. IT MAY BE IN OUR INTEREST TO PROVIDE HIM WITH SOMEWHAT BETTER DIET RESPONSE THAN "NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES" FORMULATION, PARTICULARLY IF WE HAVE CLEAN RECORD ON COOLANT DISCHARGE. SHOESMITH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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